



State of Rhode Island
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg. 68-2
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

Office of the Director

February 1, 2022

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
Chairperson, House Committee on Small Business
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H7095 An Act Relating to Towns and Cities – Zoning Ordinances

Dear Chairperson McEntee:

I am writing on behalf of the Department of Business Regulation in support of H7095.

H7095 would impose a one year moratorium on the enforcement of any municipal ordinance or zoning regulation that would penalize any food business or food service establishment for any alterations or modifications to its business made in order to comply with any directives, executive orders or restrictions issued based upon any emergency declarations. As the COVID-19 pandemic has extended into 2022 and continues to disrupt the food service industry, DBR supports this bill to assist Rhode Island's small businesses which have made significant changes in order to continue operation during the pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Tanner
Director, Department of Business Regulation

cc: Members, Senate Special Legislation and Veterans' Affairs Committee